

Name _____

Date _____

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

How Do You Start a Lawsuit? The rules that the court uses to manage a lawsuit are called the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Lawyers and their clients are required to follow these rules. Some of them are very complicated, but others are very simple. One rule talks about the "form of action" that lawyers can bring before the court. There's only one, and you can find out what it's called by unscrambling the words below. Once you've unscrambled all the words, use the letters in the starred spaces to complete the rule at the bottom of the page.

FIRST, unscramble these words:

1. **shbaecmr** ()* _____ (the judge's office)
2. **sensiwt** ()* _____ (someone who saw something)
3. **edecniev** ()* _____ (you need this to prove your point)
4. **ernittprree** ()* _____ (this person can speak your language)
5. **ricamnli** _____ ()* (someone who commits a crime)
6. **ealwry** ()* _____ (she helps clients in court)
7. **rlkec** ()* _____ (he keeps the courthouse running smoothly)
8. **ptreroer** _____ ()* _____ (writes things down as they happen)
9. **eamrattgsi** _____ ()* _____ (sometimes makes decisions for the judge)
10. **rucotoomr** _____ ()* _____ (where everyone goes to talk to the judge)
11. **hebcn** _____ ()* _____ (where the judge sits)

NOW, fill in the blanks with the starred letters to complete the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure:

Rule 2. One Form of Action

"There is one form of action — the _____."

And that's the whole rule! That's how a lawsuit in the Federal Courts begins - with one form of action. Pretty simple, right? But after that it can get tricky...